

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-225

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Hart Prairie Meadow Restoration

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region 2, hunt unit 7

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Flagstaff

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

**YES**[x] **NO**[]

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** **YES**[x] **NO**[]

**If Yes, was it funded?** **YES**[] **NO**[X] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

**Project Type:** Meadow Restoration – conifer removal

**Brief Project Summary:** Many of the Coconino National Forests historic meadows and grasslands have been slowly filled in by encroachment of trees since the advent of post settlement fire suppression and grazing. This project seeks to restore meadows to their historic range. Subsequent reintroduction of low intensity fire will help to maintain the meadow in the future.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:**

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: May 2015

Project End Date: September 2015

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

**Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:**

**\$22,806.00**

**\$ 0**

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:**

**Total Project Costs:**

**\$ 22,806.00**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant** (please print):

Shawn Martin

**Address:**

Flagstaff Ranger District

5075 N. Hwy 89

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

**E-mail:**

samartin@fs.fed.us

**Telephone:** 928-527-8285

**Date:** 8/27/14

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.** (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Rosenstock, 928-214-1253

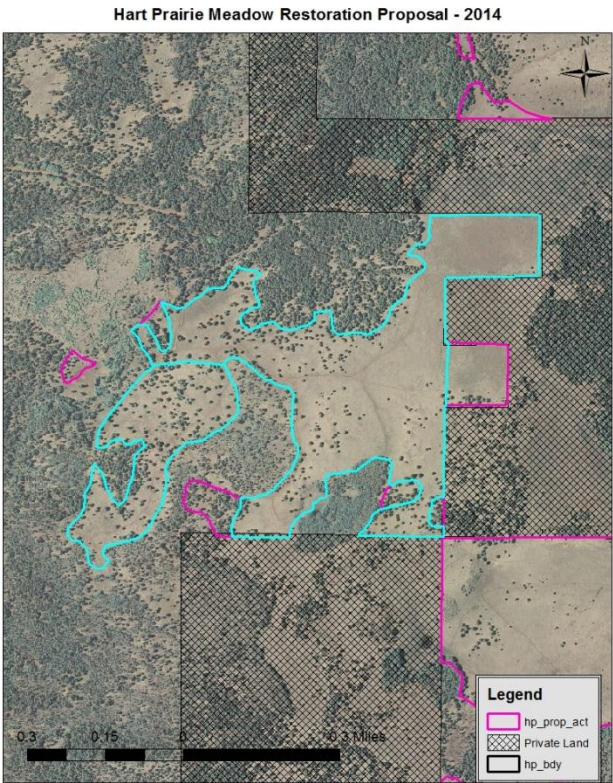
**Project has been coordinated with:** Steve Rosenstock

**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:** Many of the Coconino National Forests historic meadows and grasslands have been slowly filled in by encroachment of trees since the advent of post settlement fire suppression and grazing. This project seeks to restore meadows to their historic range. Subsequent reintroduction of low intensity fire will help to maintain the meadow in the future.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** To cut and remove conifers that have encroached into historic meadows in the Hart Prairie Project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:** The Hart Prairie Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Environmental Assessment included approximately 1,500 acres of meadow restoration designed to remove young (post settlement) conifers that have encroached into historic meadows (Figure 4). This proposal would fund a contract crew, such as Southwest Conservation Corp (formerly CREC) or the AZ State Forestry Crew, to fell encroaching conifers. Slash may be hand-piled, or lopped, scattered, and burned. The Flagstaff Ranger District Fuels Crew would burn created slash. This proposal is to treat approximately 150 acres, but project size could be increased or decreased as needed based on available funding. The area shown in Figure 4 is an example of existing meadow encroachment, and may not actually be treated under this proposal. Meadows would be prioritized for treatment based upon tree size, location, level of encroachment, etc.

**Figure 4.** Aerial photo of encroached meadows near Michelbach Ranch in Hart Prairie Project



**PROJECT LOCATION: Hart Prairie**

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S): Coconino National Forest**  
(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

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*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*  
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION: High Elevation Mountain Meadows and Grasslands**

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

SCC crew	\$6,000.00/week x 2 weeks =	\$12,000.00
Fuels crew	\$1,473.00/day x 5 days =	\$ 7,365.00
Planning/Overhead (Silv/Hydro/Fuels/Timber)	\$1,441.00	\$ 1,441.00

Administration	\$ 300.00/day x 5 days	\$ 1,500.00
Materials and supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$22,806.00</b>

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:** Southwest Conservation Corps, AZ State Forestry Department – Forestry Crew.

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The district silviculturist will be involved with the implementation of the project and will ensure that all planned work is completed.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

The district fuels crew will evaluate any piled or lopped slash for burning treatment. Any pile burning will take place within two years of completion.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Shawn Marin, Flagstaff RD Silviculturist.

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):**

**TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):**

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

### **TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Hart Prairie Meadow Restoration

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project? Depending on crews utilized and site selected for treatment; 75 to 150 acres.**
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**  
**Hand felled with chainsaws**
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre? Range from 0 to 150.**
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):** Post settlement conifers from 1 foot to 24" dbh
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks):** Gentle sloping meadows.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.: All meadows are on NF land and outside of Wilderness Areas.**
- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**  
Type of access (mark one): ☐2x4 vehicles ☒4x4 only ☐Foot only\*\*

\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles:    Approx. hiking time:

Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[] NO[x]

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES[x] NO[]

Please describe any restrictions to public access: None